Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
REGARDING SB269

March 6, 2012

I am Paul Taormina, PE, Past President and National Director of the Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers. We have approximately 350 licensed Professional Engineers in all disciplines and practice areas in our Society.

On behalf of our members, I would ask this committee to favorably report Senate Bill 269, AN ACT CONCERNING STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS AND REQUIRING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS.

Continuing professional education is required to ensure that Professional Engineers maintain competency in their technical field but also reinforce their ethical standards and professional practice skills.

Approximately 35 states now require continuing professional education for renewal of their licensed Professional Engineers. A recent survey of CSPE members and non-members showed that two-thirds of Connecticut licensed Professional Engineers are already meeting the continuing education requirements of other states in which they are licensed.

Since many engineers are licensed in multiple states, uniformity of continuing professional education requirements is imperative to simplify the licensure renewal process. We have recommend that the legislation require the Commissioner of Consumer Protection adopt regulations requiring continuing professional education. We will recommend that the Department adopt regulations based on the model "Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines" published by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). The guidelines are simple for Professional Engineers to comply with and should not require any additional staffing or expense for the state. I've attached a sample form that PEs would use to report their education to the Department.

Our world is becoming more technologically complex and that complexity will likely accelerate in the future. Scientific and engineering knowledge are expanding all over the globe and engineering students must become familiar with a rapidly expanding body of knowledge in order to remain competive. Today, students must earn a Bachelors of Science degree in order to meet the education requirement for licensure. They also must pass two examinations and prove their knowledge with four years of engineering experience to be licensed as Professional Engineers. We are recommending that in ten years, the education

requirement be increased to a masters degree or equivalent. This increased requirement would help Professional Engineers protect public safety and compete in an increasingly complex world. Our friends with the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers will expand on this recommendation.

Thank you for your time.

Paul K. Taormina, PE
Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers

Attachment

APPENDIX
Continuing Professional Competency Standard Reporting Form

Name (printed): _____

CPC reporting for calendar year: _____ or Other reporting period: _____

Renewal jurisdiction: _____ P.E. or P.S. license number(s): _____

(See Notes for CPC Standard Reporting Form for explanation of reporting content.)

ACTIVITY DATES		ENG or SURV[a]	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITY LOCATION (City, Jurisdiction)	INSTRUCTOR[b]	DATA SOURCE[c]	ACTIVITY			PDHs EARNED		
Start	End						Type[d]	Content[e]	Description[f]	Total[g]	Jur[h]	Model[i]
								TOTAL ENGINEERING PDHS				
								TOTAL SURVEYING PDHs				

I certify that the above record is true and correct. _____

_____ (Signature)

(Date) _____

(If applicable): I further certify that this record meets the Model CPC Renewal Standard. _____

_____ (Signature)

(Date) _____

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